

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 030900Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1868

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BUKVAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 6481

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN CG

SUBJ: REOPENING OF BENGUELA RAILROAD

1. LUBUMBASHI DAILY MJUMBE REPORTED JULY 18 THAT WORK BEGAN ON JULY 14 ON DILOLO BRIDGE AT ZAIRE-ANGOLAN BORDER, LAST REPORTED BLOCK TO REOPENING OF BENGUELA RAILROAD. ROUTE IS EXPECTED TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER.

2. ZAIRE'S SOLE MAGANESE PRODUCER, SOCIETE MINIER DE KISENGE (SMK), WHOSE PRODUCTION HAS BEEN STOCKPILED SINCE RAILROAD WAS CLOSED, PLANS TO BE AMONG FIRST CUTOMERS. GECAMINES TAKES MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH.

3. REPS FROM TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS HAD VISITED LUBUMBASHI IN JUNE AND TOLD LOCAL OFFICIALS THEY EXPECTED TO HAVE FINAL BRIDGE COMPLETED BY END OF JULY. LOCAL OFFICIALS REAMINED SKEPTICAL AT THE TIME. REPS HAD INFORMED ZAIRIANS THAT ANGOLAN GOVT HAD GRANTED THEM 10 YEAR GUARENTEE TO OPERATE LINE. REOPENING OF RAILROAD SAID TO BE IMPORTANT PRESTIGE PROJECT OF NETO GOVT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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